



TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
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BOARD OF HEALTH

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Weekly update

The Sharon Health Department continues to collaborate with key community individuals and municipal and school staff about the coronavirus (COVID-19), originating in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Confirmed cases have been diagnosed in Africa, The Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South East Asia and Western Pacific countries. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html#map>). As with any event, whether it is man-made or natural, the town has plans in place to lessen the impact on the community. We continue to encourage residents to visit the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) for **current and accurate information**.

As of March 2, there remains one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Massachusetts diagnosed on February 1st. and the Massachusetts risk remains low. The airports screen individuals returning from high risk areas (Italy, South Korea, etc.) and promptly notify the Department of Public Health (DPH), who in turn contact the local health department. The local health department receives notifications 24/7 and monitors the situation with the EMS Coordinator. DPH also is in contact with all health departments via email or conference calls on a timely basis.

For confirmed COVID-19 infections, reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

CDC believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 after exposure.

The flu season is just beginning to peak in MA and it is not too late **to get a flu shot**. It is important to **practice good handwashing with warm water and soap** and to **stay home if you are sick**. Flu vaccine is still available at the Sharon Health Department (www.townofsharon.net.) As of February 21, 2020, the CDC estimates between 32-45 million US residents were diagnosed with the seasonal flu, resulting in 18,000 – 46,000 deaths including more than 100 pediatric patients. (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm>)

Please contact the Sharon Health Department if you have any questions or concerns.